

Colorado and Nebraska State Veterinarians, Colorado State University, and USDA release Cooperative West Nile Virus Economic Impact Study

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Center for Epidemiology and Animal Health, a part of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) veterinary services (VS) program, Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and the State veterinarian's offices in Colorado and Nebraska released their study of the economic impacts of West Nile Virus (WNV) on the Nebraska and Colorado equine industries.

The study is the first of its type and will assist individual horse owners and the equine industry in preparing for WNV in the future. Research and management control efforts for WNV also can be prioritized more easily if the economic impacts are known.

The data suggest that WNV had a marked economic impact on the equine industries in Nebraska and Colorado in 2002. For example, the 2002 estimated total cost attributed to equine death from WNV in Colorado and Nebraska was \$600,660. The estimated cost of treating mild, moderate, and severe WNV equine cases in Colorado and Nebraska totaled \$490,844.

To receive further information on the economic impact of WNV on the equine industries in Colorado and Nebraska in 2002, visit VS' Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs>.

Note to stakeholders: Stakeholders announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Access the APHIS home page by pointing your Web browser to <http://www.aphis.usda.gov> and clicking on the "News" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Teresa Howes (970) 494-7410 or teresa.k.howes@aphis.usda.gov

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